COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM FY-2002 ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

RECOVERY PROGRAM PROJECT NUMBER: 120

- I. Project Title: Bottle Hollow Reservoir nonnative fish control structure
- II. Principal Investigators:

Dave Irving, Project Leader Mike Montoya, Fisheries Biologist

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III. Project Summary:

The Northern Ute Indian Tribe constructed a three-acre pond near the Senior Center on the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation to provide fishing for Tribal Elders. Nonnative fish captured during the Recovery Program's 2003 nonnative fish removal studies will be stocked in the pond. A ¼-inch mess screen was placed at the outlet of the pond to reduce nonnative fish from migrating downstream into the Duchesne and Green rivers and having detrimental impacts on endangered razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow. The pond and screen construction was completed in September 2002. The Tribe also will build a walking path, plant trees and grass, and provide picnic tables around the pond.

- IV Study Schedule: The construction of Elders Pond and fish screen began in April and was completed in September 2002.
- V. Relationship to RIPRAP:

GREEN RIVER ACTION PLAN: DUCHESNE RIVER

III.A. Reduce negative interactions between nonnative and endangered fishes.

III.A.3.a. Evaluate feasibility of screen on Bottle Hollow Reservoir to control nonnative fish escapement and explore alternative funding sources.

III.A.3.a.1. If feasible and necessary, screen Bottle Hollow Reservoir.

VI. Accomplishment of FY2002 Tasks and Deliverables:

The Uintah Engineering and Survey Company conducted the surveys and design of Elders' Pond in September 2000. The Utah Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Office (UFWMAO) completed the Environmental Assessment of the pond in May 2001. In addition, the UFWMAO completed a scope-of-work for the project in June 2001. The Northern Ute Indian Tribe completed the NEPA and final fish screen design in June 2001. The Uintah Engineering and Land Survey Company constructed and installed the fish screen structure in September 2002.

VII Recommendations:

The Recovery Program has agreed to provide fish to the Tribe for stocking into Elders' Pond. In doing so, however, there are several conditions to this agreement. First, the Ute Tribe will be responsible for acquiring the fish from the removal crews and transporting them to the pond. Second,

the Tribe understands that, because of the short-term nature of these removal studies, they can only get these fish from the Recovery Program on a temporary basis. After that, they will be on their own to get fish to stock in the pond. Third, only channel catfish, smallmouth bass, and northern pike caught in the Green, White, and Duchesne rivers on the reservation will be stocked in the pond. And fourth, water flows and levels in the pond must be managed to minimize spawning activities of nonnative fish. Ideally, no nonnative fish placed in Elders' Pond should be able to migrate downstream through the screen structure. However, in reality, the screen structure will not be 100% effective, especially if some of the nonnative fish spawn in the pond. Whether channel catfish pull off a spawn in the pond is probably a moot point since they are so successful at spawning throughout the river system. Other fish, however, like northern pike and smallmouth bass that have not established widespread spawning populations in the rivers, could be prevented from spawning or moving out of the pond by using different control measures. For example, only male northern pike would be stocked in Elders' Pond. Further, flows out of the pond could be stopped during northern pike spawning and rearing periods. Flow releases from the pond would not resume until after the young-of-the-year fish reached lengths greater than the ½-inch mess screen size.

VIII Project Status: Completed.

- IX FY 2002 Budget Status:
 - A. Funds Provided: \$28,000 from Recovery Program, and \$10,000 from the Northern Ute Indian Tribe.
 - B. Funds Expended: All funds expended.
 - C. Difference: None.
 - D. Percent of FY 2002 work completed: 100%.
 - E. Recovery Program funds spent for publication charges: None.
- X. Status of Data Submission: Not applicable.

XI.	Signed:	Dave Irving	10 December 2002
	C	Principle Investigator	Date

APPENDIX: None.